

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1 and 6, AMEND claims 2 and 7, and ADD new claims 9-11 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A grinding sludge compacting machine to compress and make a briquette of a grinding sludge by inserting a concentrated grinding sludge formed by filtering a grinding sludge, produced in a grinding line by grinding hardened component parts while containing a coolant, into a press unit comprising a cylindrical mold fixed on a machine bench, a first piston reciprocatingly movably inserted in the cylindrical mold and a second piston arranged in face-to-face relation with the first piston, and compressing the concentrated sludge; a diameter of an end of the second piston being larger than an inner diameter of the cylindrical mold,

wherein the end of the second piston defines a gap in cooperation with an adjacent annular end of the cylindrical mold when the second piston is held in position adjacent the cylindrical mold, said gap defining a coolant drain passage.

3. (Original) The grinding sludge compacting machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gap is of a size within the range of 0.05 to 1.0 mm.

4.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The grinding sludge compacting machine according to claim 6~~A grinding sludge compacting machine to compress a concentrated coolant grinding sludge, to produce a briquette, the grinding sludge compacting machine comprising:
a press unit having
a cylindrical mold,
a first reciprocating piston movably inserted in the cylindrical mold, and

a second reciprocating piston arranged in face-to-face relation with the first reciprocating piston, a diameter of an end of the second reciprocating piston facing an end of the cylindrical mold being larger than an inner diameter of the cylindrical mold,

wherein during operation, the end of the second piston is spaced from ~~the~~ an adjacent end of the cylindrical mold to define a coolant drain passage.

8. (Previously presented) The grinding sludge compacting machine according to claim 7, wherein a range that the end of the second piston is spaced from the end of the cylindrical mold is approximately 0.05 to 1.0 mm.

9. (New) The grinding sludge compacting machine according to claim 7, wherein a gap between an outer periphery of the first reciprocating piston and an inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical mold defines a second coolant drain passage.

10. (New) A grinding sludge compacting machine to compress a concentrated coolant grinding sludge, to produce a briquette, the grinding sludge compacting machine comprising:

a press unit having

a cylindrical mold,

a first reciprocating piston movably inserted in a first end of the cylindrical mold,

and

a second reciprocating piston arranged approximately co-linearly with the first reciprocating piston, a diameter of an end of the second reciprocating piston facing a second end of the cylindrical mold opposite the first end being larger than an inner diameter of the cylindrical mold,

wherein during a compressing operation, the end of the second piston is spaced from a mutually confronting end of the cylindrical mold to define a coolant drain passage.

11. (New) The grinding sludge compacting machine according to claim 10, wherein a gap between an outer periphery of the first reciprocating piston and an inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical mold defines a second coolant drain passage.